

UTILITIES DIVISION[199]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)"b."

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 476.1, and 476.2 and chapter 478, the Utilities Board (Board) gives notice that on May 12, 2009, the Board issued an order in Docket No. RMU-2009-0004, In re: Amendments to Outage Notification Rules for Electric Utilities [199 IAC 20.18 and 20.19], "Order Commencing Rule Making," that proposes amendments updating the Board's rules for notification and reporting of electrical outages. The Board is proposing amendments to these rules based upon its experience since the adoption of the existing rules in March 2008; the comments received in RMU-2009-0001, which was recently terminated; and a workshop in which affected electric utilities participated. The order containing the background and support for this rule making may be found on the Board's Web site, www.state.ia.us/iub.

Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.4(1)"a" and "b," any interested person may file a written statement of position pertaining to the proposed amendments. The statement must be filed on or before June 23, 2009. The statement should be filed electronically through the Board's Electronic Filing System (EFS). Instructions for making an electronic filing may be found on the EFS Web site at <http://efs.iowa.gov>. Any person who does not have access to the Internet may file comments on paper pursuant to 199 IAC 14.4(5). An original and ten copies of paper comments shall be filed. Both electronic and written filings shall comply with the format requirements in 199 IAC 2.2(2) and clearly state the author's name and address and make specific reference to this docket. All paper communications should be directed to the Executive Secretary, Utilities Board, 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

An oral presentation to receive oral comments on the proposed amendments will be held at 9 a.m. on July 28, 2009, in the Board's hearing room at the address listed above. Persons with disabilities who require assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Utilities Board at (515)281-5256 at least five days in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 17A.4, 476.1, and 476.2 and chapter 478.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend subrule 20.18(6) as follows:

20.18(6) Notification of major events.

a. Notification ~~and reporting~~ of major events as defined in subrule 20.18(4) shall comply with the requirements of rule 20.19(476,478).

b. For major events as defined in subrule 20.18(4), each electric utility shall submit to the board within 30 days after the utility has restored service to those customers capable of receiving service in the area a report that contains the following information:

- (1) A description of the circumstances that caused the outage;
- (2) The total number of customers out of service during the outage;
- (3) The longest customer interruption;
- (4) The damage cost estimates to the electric utility's facilities; and
- (5) The number of personnel from other utilities and contractors used to restore service.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 199—20.19(476,478) as follows:

199—20.19(476,478) Notification and reporting of outages.

20.19(1) Notification. The notification requirements in subrules 20.19(1) and 20.19(2) are for the timely collection of electric outage information that may be useful to emergency management agencies in providing for the welfare of individual Iowa citizens. Each electric utility shall notify the board of any when it becomes apparent that an outage that results, or is expected to result, in the following may result in a loss of service for more than two hours and the outage meets one of the following criteria:

a. ~~Loss~~ For all utilities, loss of service for more than two hours to substantially all of a municipality, including the surrounding area served by the same utility;

b. ~~Loss~~ For utilities with more than 50,000 customers, loss of service for more than two hours to 20 percent of the customers in a utility's established zone or loss of service to more than 5,000 customers in a metropolitan area, whichever is less;

c. ~~Loss of service for more than two hours to more than 3,600 customers in a metropolitan area~~ For utilities with more than 4,000 customers and fewer than 50,000 customers, loss of service to 25 percent or more of the utility's customers;

d. No change.

e. Any other outage considered significant by the electric utility. This includes loss of service to significant public health and safety facilities known to the utility at the time of the notification, even when the outage does not meet the criteria in paragraphs 20.19(1) "a" through "d."

20.19(2) Information required.

a. ~~Notice~~ Notification shall be provided as soon as the utility learns of the outage, or as soon as practical thereafter, regarding outages that meet the requirements of subrule 20.19(1) by calling notifying the board duty officer by E-mail at iubdutyofficer@iub.state.ia.us or by telephone at 515-745-2332. The caller shall leave a call back number for a person who can provide Notification shall be made at the earliest possible time after it is determined the event may be reportable and should include the following information, as available:

(1) The ~~general~~ nature or cause of the outage;

(2) No change.

(3) The ~~approximate~~ number of customers that have experienced a loss of electric service as a result of the outage;

(4) The ~~estimated~~ time until when service will is estimated to be restored; and

(5) No change.

The notice should be supplemented as more complete or accurate information is available.

b. ~~The electric utility shall provide updates to the board as new or additional information becomes available until all service is restored~~ Updates of the estimated time service will be restored to all customers able to receive service or of significant changed circumstances shall be provided to the board, unless service is restored within one hour of the time initially estimated.

20.19(3) Outage report. Each electric utility shall submit a report to the board within 30 days after the customers affected by the outage reported under subrule 20.19(1) have regained service. The report shall include the following:

a. —A description of the circumstances that caused the outage;

b. —The total number of customers out of service during the outage;

c. —The longest customer interruption;

d. —The damage cost estimates to the electric utility's facilities; and

e. —The number of people used to restore service.